

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for filling an aperture in a wheel, the wheel having a tire engaging
2 portion, an axle engaging portion having a plurality of lug receiving openings, and a
3 connecting portion extending between the tire engaging portion and the axle engaging
4 portion, the connecting portion having a front side and a rear side and a plurality of
5 apertures extending from the front side through to the rear side; and
6 at least one wheel inserts insertable into at least one of the plurality of apertures
7 in the connecting portion of the wheel, each wheel insert comprising a front insert side
8 and a rear insert side;
9 the method comprising:
10 securing a wheel insert into an aperture in the connecting portion of the wheel.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein securing the wheel insert into the connecting
2 portion aperture further comprises, inserting the wheel insert into the aperture from the
3 rear side of the connecting portion.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein securing the wheel insert into the aperture
2 further comprises, inserting the wheel insert into the aperture from the front side of the
3 connecting portion of the wheel.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein securing the wheel insert into the aperture
2 further comprises, securing a plurality wheel inserts into a plurality of apertures into the
3 connecting portion of the wheel.

4 5. The method of claim 1, wherein securing the wheel insert into the aperture
5 further comprises, securing a plurality wheel inserts into a plurality of apertures into
6 connecting portions of a plurality of wheels.

1 6. A combination wheel and wheel insert comprising;
2 a wheel having tire engaging portion, an axle engaging portion having a plurality
3 of lug receiving openings, and a connecting portion extending between the tire engaging
4 portion and the axle engaging portion, the connecting portion having a front side and a
5 rear side;
6 the connecting portion having a plurality of apertures extending from the front
7 side through to the rear; and
8 a plurality of wheel inserts insertable into the plurality of apertures in the
9 connecting portion of the wheel, wherein each wheel insert is adapted to substantially fill
10 the apertures in the wheel.

1 7. The combination wheel and wheel insert of claim 6, wherein a side of the
2 wheel insert exposed to view along a front surface of the wheel has design indicia
3 thereon.

1 8. A wheel insert for insertion into an aperture in a wheel comprising;
2 a front side and a rear side, wherein the wheel insert fits into and substantially
3 fills the aperture in the wheel.

1 9. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein a side exposed to view along a front
2 surface of the wheel has design indicia thereon.

1 10. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from a
2 same material as the wheel.

1 11. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from a
2 different material than the wheel.

1 12. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from a
2 transparent material.

1 13. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from an
2 opaque colored plastic material.

1 14. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from a
2 base metal and is covered with another material.

1 15. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from one
2 of a metal, an alloy of metals, and a composite material.

1 16. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert further comprises a
2 fastening mechanism for securing the wheel insert to the wheel.

1 17. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert further comprises at
2 least one edge adapted to cooperatively mate with an interior edge of the aperture in
3 the wheel.